

## New York Signals Weatherization Savings

A multitude of cultural images and symbols characterize New York, but one stands out from the rest. The Statue of Liberty is recognized around the world as New York's unique beacon, welcoming the "weary and downtrodden" to share the American Dream. New York's history is rooted in this role as a gateway to a better life and the state remains a model of innovation for the nation. New York develops and implements innovative programs to improve the standard of living for all residents. A prime example is New York's partnership with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to deliver the Weatherization Assistance Program (Weatherization). Weatherization reduces energy costs for low-income households by increasing the energy efficiency of their homes, while ensuring their health and safety.

### SYMBOL OF HOPE

Low-income households typically spend 14% of their total annual income on energy, compared with 3.5% for other households. This burden becomes even more unmanageable when energy prices soar. Low-income families often have to cut back on other necessities to pay their energy bills. Weatherization reduces home energy consumption and alleviates the household's energy burden. Nationally, Weatherization produces average annual energy savings of \$300 per household.

New York has weatherized more than 395,000 dwelling units since the program's inception; however, the need remains great. Currently, 1.5 million dwelling units are eligible for weatherization services. Welfare reform has shifted many families into the "working poor" and Weatherization is one of the few programs that provides vital assistance to these families as they struggle toward self-sufficiency. The cost savings produced through weatherization offer an important economic boost.

### NATIONAL WEATHERIZATION PROGRAM

Homes weatherized in 1999	68,000
DOE allocations in 1999	\$135 million
Average annual energy cost savings per household	\$300
Average space heating savings	25-30%
Energy benefits returned for every \$1 invested	\$2.10
Jobs supported	7,000

### NEW YORK

Homes weatherized in 1999 (with DOE \$)	9,444
DOE funding in 1999	\$11.7 million
Clients served in 1999	12,989
Elderly	27%
People with disabilities	14%
Families with children	58%

### ENERGY EFFICIENCY BEACON

New York's Department of Housing and Community Renewal administers the Weatherization Program and 73 local agencies deliver energy efficiency services to every county in the state. New York leverages core DOE funding with other federal, state, utility, and private funding sources to expand program services. The energy efficiency measures installed in 1999 will create estimated savings of more than \$54 million in avoided energy costs over the life of the measures.

New York crews use a computerized energy audit to determine the most cost-effective measures for single family homes and multi-family buildings. The on-site energy audit includes health and safety tests and an extensive analysis of fuel consumption and household energy use patterns. Weatherization crews also use the energy audit to leverage landlord contributions in multi-family buildings. Landlords are required to contribute a certain percentage to the work. After seeing the results of the energy audit and the savings-to-investment ratio of each measure, landlords are often motivated to share the cost of additional measures.

Typical weatherization services include installing insulation; sealing ducts; tuning and repairing heating systems; and mitigating heat loss through windows, doors, and other infiltration points. In addition, New York leverages funding from System Benefit Charge (SBC) programs to install base load reduction measures. Clients are also educated on the proper use and maintenance of the installed measures.

### MODEL OF INNOVATION

Weatherization technicians provide comprehensive energy efficiency solutions for low-income New Yorkers and also serve as an energy efficiency resource to the community. Several local agencies are participating in an innovative utility restructuring pilot project, funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, to aggregate low-income clients and act as an energy broker on behalf of this group. The goal is to secure a fair rate for low-income households and ensure the continued provision of energy efficiency and consumer support services.

New York also leveraged funding to pilot a refrigerator replacement program. The program demonstrated the energy and cost savings resulting from replacing inefficient refrigerators in low-income housing using Weatherization Program management and delivery systems. The program produced 74% savings in all three scenarios tested. New

York continues to leverage landlord resources and SBC funding to replace inefficient refrigerators in eligible homes.

### COMMUNITY LEADERS

By reducing energy costs for low-income households, Weatherization keeps money in the community that would typically be exported out to pay for energy. This spurs local economic growth and creates additional jobs. Every \$1 retained in the community produces an estimated \$3 dollars in multiplier benefits.



*Weatherization technicians use the blower door to identify air infiltration in a low-income home.*

Reducing residential energy demand also decreases electricity generation and avoids emissions of nitrogen oxides, sulphur dioxide, and other pollutants. This improves local air quality and reduces adverse health effects, particularly asthma. Weatherization measures also reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, a leading greenhouse gas, by an average of one metric ton per weatherized home or one-third the emissions of an average automobile.

### WEATHERIZATION WORKS!

Weatherization produces an impressive range of benefits for low-income households and communities. Nationally, for every \$1 invested in the program, Weatherization returns \$2.10 in energy-related benefits. Weatherization measures reduce national energy consumption and curb demand for imported oil. Weatherization works for New York and America!



### TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WEATHERIZATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, CONTACT:

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Visit the Weatherization Web site at: [www.eren.doe.gov/buildings/weatherization\\_assistance](http://www.eren.doe.gov/buildings/weatherization_assistance)  
or call the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Clearinghouse at: 1-800-DOE-3732



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